

REMARKS

These Remarks are in reply to the final Office Action mailed October 31, 2007. Claims 1-11 are hereby canceled, claims 12-20 were previously canceled and no claims have been amended, such that claims 21-29 remain pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11 and 21-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,778,362 to Davis et al. (hereinafter "Davis").

Claims 1-11 have been canceled.

Claim 21 recites, among other elements, "an aperture" and a damping material attached to the head suspension and extending over only a portion of the aperture." (Emphasis added) Davis does not show any damping material whatsoever, much less damping material that is attached to the head suspension and that extends over only a portion of an aperture. Moreover, it appears the Office has completely overlooked these limitation since they have yet to be addressed in any way. If the Office insists upon maintaining this ground of rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that these limitations be addressed. Otherwise, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-27 depend from claim 21 and are allowable for at least this reason, and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Davis in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0141114 to Wittig et al. (hereinafter "Wittig").

Claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 21 and are allowable for at least this reason. As set forth above, Davis alone does not anticipate claim 21, and the addition of Wittig does not remedy the deficiencies noted with respect to Davis. Allowance of claims 28 and 29 is respectfully requested.

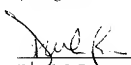
Conclusion

For reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully asserts that present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. In addition, the present invention as claimed is not taught by the prior art of record or any combination thereof. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is not satisfied, but minor changes would apparently put the present case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Seagate Technology LLC
(Assignee of the Entire Interest)

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Date


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